



Workshop Objectives

- Solicit advice on the policy considerations relevant to evaluating regional resource management strategies in light of many future risks and uncertainties
- Outline key assumptions to guide the Update 2013 technical analysis to plan for an uncertain future

Glossary

Performance measure - Quantitative measures used to evaluate the performance and compare resource management strategies.

Resource management strategy - A project, program, or policy that helps federal, State or local agencies manage water and related resources. Resource management strategies in the Water Plan are grouped by their intended outcomes: reduce water demand, improve operational efficiency and transfers, increase water supply, improve water quality, practice resource stewardship; and improve flood management. Although most of the resource management strategies have multiple potential benefits, any individual site-specific project or program within a resource management strategy may contribute only one, or a few of the benefits.

Response package – Combinations of different resource management strategies to be implemented to achieve regional water management objectives.

Scenario - Descriptions of alternative plausible future conditions outside the control of the policy-makers.

Workshop Content

1. Introduction and Background

- Why we are here today
- Policy questions from June 29 AC meeting (handout)
- Case studies applying technical information to inform policy questions
 - Inland Empire Utilities Agency – Climate vulnerability
 - Metropolitan Water District of Southern CA – Supporting the Integrated Resource Plan

2. Meeting water management objectives

- Resource management strategies from Update 2009
- Describe how resource management strategies were grouped as sample response packages in WEAP Proof of Concept

EXERCISE: Discuss statewide policy linkages to resource management strategies

- What is your Top Five List of resource management strategies to be considered in Update 2013?
- Are there thematic ways to group resource management strategies into response packages that make sense from a statewide policy perspective?
- How many different land use densities and variations should we consider in Update 2013; and what would they look like?
- How many different levels of environmental water (for stream flows and habitat restoration beyond existing requirements) should we consider in Update 2013; and what would be those levels?

3. Evaluating performance of resource management strategies

- Water management objectives from Update 2009
- Sample performance measures from WEAP Proof of Concept

EXERCISE: Discuss statewide policy linkages to evaluating the performance of resource management strategies.

- What information (system behavior, costs, benefits, etc) do you need to decide whether or not to invest in a particular (or bundle of) resource management strategies (AKA response package)?
- What information do you need to assess the tradeoffs between different and potentially conflicting water management objectives?
- Which temporal scales (daily, monthly, annual, etc) and planning horizons (2020, 2050, 2100) are most useful to your decisions about investing in resource management strategies?
- Which spatial scales (water district, IRWM region, county, city, hydrologic region, statewide) are most useful to your decisions about investing in resource management strategies?

4. Describing how future uncertainties may affect decisions

- Effect of population growth uncertainty on meeting future water management objectives
- Effect of climate uncertainty on meeting future water management objectives

EXERCISE: Discuss how to best characterize future uncertainty as part of Update 2013.

- How many levels of future population are sufficient to characterize uncertainty surrounding future population growth in Update 2013; and what would they be?
- What information about future climate change would help you make decisions when evaluating alternative bundles of resource management strategies (response packages)?

5. Next Steps

- Incorporate workshop input into Update 2013 assumptions and analytical approach for evaluating future scenarios.
- Identify IRWM Regional Water Management Groups (find volunteers) in Sacramento River, San Joaquin River, and Tulare Lake Hydrologic Regions to offer regional resource management strategies (response packages)
- Conduct WEAP simulations using an iterative process with RWMGs.
- Present interim results to SWAN and other Update 2013 venues.